

Americans who continue to pursue the American dream.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 1998*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall votes 76, 77, and 78. If present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 76, "aye" on rollcall vote 77, and "no" on rollcall vote 78.

#### WELCOMING THE NWPC NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE TO NEW JERSEY

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the National Women's Political Caucus 1998 Spring National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting to Newark, New Jersey. This marks the first time New Jersey has hosted this important event.

The National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) is the only national, grassroots organization designed to help women from both political parties attain public office. Each year the Caucus trains and supports more than 50,000 women who are seeking elected or appointed government positions.

As Eileen P. Thornton, former WPC-NJ president, has written, "As we look back, it is good to reflect on how far women have come. But looking ahead, it is very important that we understand how far we still have to go to reach our goals."

The National Women's Political Caucus has served as a catalyst for getting women into public office. We can now say that due in part to this organization's efforts we have more women in the House of Representatives than ever before. But the NWPC understands that more must be done.

The organization's National Steering Committee meeting will bring women from across the country to develop strategies to elect more women to federal offices and to make NWPC endorsements. The National Women's Political Caucus National Steering Committee meeting will be held at the Newark Airport Marriott, March 26–28, 1998.

I would like to thank NWPC president Anita Perez Ferguson, WPC-NJ president Paige Berry and former WPC-NJ president Eileen P. Thornton for making this event possible. The political future of the women's movement is safe in their hands.

#### IN HONOR OF JOSEPH JACOBSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending warm wishes to

Mr. Joseph Jacobson on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Jacobson has been busy this last century it seems. He began his career in the construction industry in 1921, by 1923 he became a member of Local Union #3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He has remained an active member, in good standing, for over 75 years. Joseph literally worked his way up through the construction trade, holding a number of positions during his career. Today we see the magnificent projects he had the opportunity to work on, such as, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Building, Parkchester Housing Complex in the Bronx and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Manhattan.

Throughout the years, Mr. Jacobson has also found time to dedicate himself to fine causes dear to his heart. For these efforts he has been recognized a number of times by organizations such as the Allied Union Club of Queens, Bronx Acorn Electrical Club, the Bronx Scouting Council and the New York City Central Labor Council. Because of his continued commitment and level of service to the community, the Bronx Acorn Club and the Electrical Square Club have awarded scholarships in his name. One in particular which makes him most proud is the Educational and Cultural Fund of the Electrical Industry which has awarded a scholarship in his name for the past 20 years.

Despite his retirement from the industry, he has remained quite active with his union helping organize retirees. Mr. Jacobson is currently President of the Retirees Association of Local union #3 I.B.E.W. He has also been active with the National Council of Senior Citizens and the New York State Council of Senior Citizens.

I would like to take this time to say that we should not let this birthday be just a celebration of how many years Mr. Jacobson has lived. Rather it should be a celebration of the events that have taken place during these precious years he has been given. Let us measure the life he has lived by the good deeds, by the joy he has shared and brought to others, by the generosity he has bestowed to friend and stranger alike and by the countless ways he has been an inspiration to those who have had the pleasure to meet him.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Jacobson, and I wish you many more.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 1998*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was traveling with the President in Africa yesterday, March 26, 1998, and was unable to vote. I would have voted in favor of the Kucinich amendment to H.R. 3310 (Rollcall No. 72). I would have voted against the McIntosh amendment to H.R. 3310 (Rollcall No. 73). I would have voted against H.R. 3310 (Rollcall No. 74). I would have voted against the Solomon amendment H. Res. 385 (Rollcall No. 75). I would have voted against the Dreier resolution H. Res. 393 (Rollcall No. 76). I would have voted against the Goodling amendment to H.R. 3246 (Rollcall No. 77). I would have voted against H.R. 3246 (Rollcall No. 78).

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 1998*

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 26, 1998, on Roll Call 75, the rule for consideration of H.R. 1757, I inadvertently voted aye. I intended to vote no.

#### "RECOGNIZING VETERAN OLYMPIAN AMY PETERSON"

### HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 1998*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize one of my constituents, Amy Peterson, who deserves a standing ovation from our nation for her magnificent achievements as a member of the U.S. Olympic speed skating team. Amy has endured an impressive battle to become the most decorated Olympian in Minnesota history!

Amy is from Maplewood, Minnesota and attended Johnson High School, graduating in 1990. She began competing in the Olympics in the 1990 Albertville Games, taking home a silver medal on the 3000 meter relay team. In 1994, she returned to Lillehammer to take home the bronze medal in the 500-meter race, and another bronze in the relay event.

Amy was diagnosed in 1995 with chronic fatigue syndrome, which severely hindered her energy level and limited her training. As we are all aware, Olympic training requires an intense athletic and mental commitment of no less than 100%. Amy struggled through her condition for 18 months until 1996, all the while training to the best of her abilities. For the first time in years, Amy again felt comfortable on the ice at the Olympic trials in January 1998, enough to win first place in the short-trials in all four of her races. Amy went on to take 4th place in the 500 meter race this year in Nagano, and 5th place with the U.S. Team in the 3000 meter relays.

I personally greatly admire Amy's incredible grit and determination. Amy's life story and experience captures the true meaning of the Olympics, the power of the human spirit demonstrated in this special competition. Amy has proven to the world, and especially to herself, that she can beat the odds to surpass all limits. My congratulations to Amy Peterson for her extraordinary achievements!

#### EXTENDING THE VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2578) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the visa waiver pilot program, and to